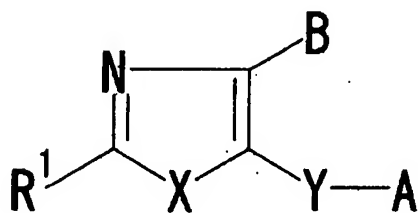


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~preventing or treating chronic pain, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, diabetic cardiomyopathy, peripheral nerve injury, spinal injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral ischemic diseases, senile dementia of Alzheimer's disease type, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, depression, inflammatory bowel disease, behavioural abnormalities accompanied by dementia, or anxiety~~ in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an azole derivative of the formula:



wherein R¹ represents a ~~halogen atom, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, a thiol group which may optionally be substituted, or an amino group which may optionally be substituted~~ an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted; A represents an ~~acyl group which may optionally be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, or a carboxyl group which may optionally be esterified or amidated~~ a phenoxy group substituted with an alkyl group which may optionally be substituted or a C₁₋₄ alkoxy; B represents an ~~aromatic group which may optionally be substituted a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted~~; X represents ~~oxygen atom, sulfur atom, or nitrogen atom which may optionally be substituted~~; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

2-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein A is a phenoxy group substituted with an alkyl group which may optionally be substituted.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

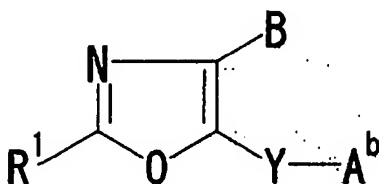
12-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is

~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolepropanol,~~
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolebutanol,~~
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(1-imidazolyl)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole,~~
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolepentanol,~~
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[4-(1-imidazolyl)(butyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole,~~
~~3-[3-[4-[4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolyl]propyl]-1-methyl-2,4-~~
~~imidazolidinedione,~~
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole,
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole,
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(4-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole, or
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(2-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole.

16-28. (Canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is of the formula:



wherein R^1 represents ~~a halogen atom, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, a thiol group which may optionally be substituted, or an amino group which may optionally be substituted~~ an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted; A^b represents an arylphenoxy group which is substituted by an alkyl group and may further be substituted; B represents ~~an aromatic group which may optionally be substituted~~ a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

30-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3329, wherein R¹ is an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted by a C₁₋₁₀ alkyl.

35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 3529, wherein B is a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted by halogens.

37. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

38. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 37, wherein Y is a divalent C₁₋₄ aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

39-42. (Canceled)

43. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(2-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole or a salt thereof.

44. (Canceled)

45. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(3-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole or a salt thereof.

46-58. (Canceled)